

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the major improvements in health status during the last century have been the result of population-based public health initiatives for such things as safe drinking water and food supplies, reduction of smoking, promotion of oral health, immunizations, family planning, sewage disposal, and infectious disease control; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of public health is to empower individuals and communities to take responsibility for their own health by minimizing known unhealthy behaviors, taking appropriate preventive measures, and making informed, cost-effective choices about the use of appropriate and effective health services; and

**WHEREAS**, public health today represents society's best effort to improve health by reducing social and physical environmental health threats, and by promoting access to proven cost effective, preventive health practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the health of all Washington's residents depends upon the availability of adequate health education, protection, promotion, and offering a health care system that makes sure everyone has access to affordable, quality care; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Public Health Association has proclaimed April 3-9, 2006, as Public Health Week, and the nation will focus on ways to build healthier communities and healthier kids during National Public Health Week; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Public Health Agencies and Associations will highlight the public health message of "Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Washington" during the month of April;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 3-9, 2006, as

### **Public Health Week**

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2006

*Christine Gregoire*

Governor Christine O. Gregoire

